

Trakehner Young Breeders: A focus on the future

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PHOTOGRAPHY: MEIKE DÜSTERWALD

The Trakehner Young Breeders are like the Trakehner horses and their history: unique. Trakehners originally came from East Prussia from where they had to flee with their breeders in 1945 during the Second World War.

Many settled in Schleswig Holstein, where the Trakehner association is still located today. Trakehner studs, however, exist all over Germany. Therefore, the Trakehner association is divided into 10 breeding districts – each of these with its own youth representative, as we young breeders are located all over Germany, just like the horses. It is therefore challenging to train together on a regular basis, making it all the more enjoyable when we meet again at training courses or competitions, when they occur.

We also support the Trakehner Association at numerous events. The two annual highlights are the licensing in Neumünster and the international Bundestunier. In addition, we also support a variety of both large and small breeding events such as the mare registrations or photo and video sessions for foals. At these and similar events we take on numerous responsible tasks, including the braiding of manes and tails, whip guidance (arena party tasks), and in-hand presentation, linear scoring, filming of the horses, and much more. Through this regular and varied work side by side with the professionals we have the opportunity to learn a lot. These events are a lot of fun and afford us the opportunity to make friends for life.

We would like to acknowledge and thank the Trakehner Verband for their immense trust in us, most especially our



Gabriel Lucano at a Trakehner stallion licensing in Neumünster

current Breeding Director, Neel Heinrich Schoof, who himself began his own career as a young breeder. The wide variety of experiences our members receive working with the Association are not taken for granted, we appreciate that we are very fortunate.

The Trakehner association understands that young breeders are the future of the association's work. Two young men embody this statement in an exemplary manner: the brothers Raffaele and Gabriel Lucano. Both Raffaele and Gabriel are involved in different ways with the work of the Trakehner Association's activities. Both first became involved with the Trakehner Young Breeders at a young age through various training courses and are now doing us all proud. Both have already received the award for best demonstrator/exhibitor at the licensing in Neumünster. This award is given to a stallion exhibitor every year at the Trakehner licensing.

In the meantime, with the support of their family, they are developing their own farm in the Rhineland area. However, the Lucano family has been breeding and producing horses for many years. Raffaele is 25 years old, and has taken over the responsibility of young breeders' work at a federal level for the Trakehner association. He supports us as a



Trakehner Young Breeders at a foal registration: (l-r) Luca Mandler, Tim Vester, Leonie Anders, Gabriel Lucano, Femke Düsterwald, Stella Porath, Sarah Weber, Johanna Kraus, Gwendolyn von Feilitzsch, Moritz Gremmes, Raffaele Lucano, Moritz Hoth



Raffaele Lucano at a Trakehner stallion licensing in Neumünster

trainer and organiser at competitions, among other things. He has proven his talent for this task over the years, which has now been positively received by the breed management board. Raffaele has become an integral part of the Trakehner Association and organises events such as the international Bundesturnier with great success.

The international Trakehner Bundesturnier is an annual event at which dressage, showjumping, and eventing competitions are held. Champions are determined in competitions ranging from young horse classes to advanced level. Here, among other things, Trakehner horses are nominated and qualified for the Bundeschampionat of the German Sport Horse, in addition to which a foal auction takes place. Besides his biology studies, Raffaele still regularly demonstrates his skills on and around the horse at numerous events. He is also responsible for the new calculation software for young breeders' competitions, to enable more efficient scoring, which was used for the first time this year at competitions, including the 2023 German Young Breeder National Championships.

Gabriel is now 23 years old. During his active young breeder's period, he was able to secure the German championship title in the in-hand presentation, and was very successful with the Trakehner team at the German and World Championships.

After graduating from school, he successfully completed two horse management apprenticeships in breeding and classical riding. Now he is studying agricultural sciences in Bonn. He has also made a name for himself as a stallion producer and is responsible for numerous licensed and award-winning stallions.

One example of this is Belun (Nathan de la Tour AA x Sarafan [Trak]). In addition to the approval, the stallion also received the titles of premium stallion, best jumping stallion, and best half-breed stallion in 2022. It is therefore no wonder that Gabriel has now started leaving his young breeder participation behind to work professionally at all kinds of equine breeding/producer events. Both Raffaele and Gabriel are prime examples of the benefits of young breeder participation and the potential career paths thereafter for active young breeders.

But with the future in mind, there are many other Trakehner young breeders with talent and aspirations who give us great hope for the future of the Association. The concept and trust of the Trakehner association to intensively introduce young people to working with the Trakehner as a breeding product is working very well. A comparatively large number of young people from our circle of young breeder participants are already on their way to a future with horses as a profession. ■

